



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5000

Safety

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZK-PTO (600)

22 JAN 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting to This Headquarters
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

SUBJECT: Night Vision Device (NVD) Training Requirements

1. References:

a. AR 600-55, 31 December 1993, The Army Driver and Operator Standardization Program (Selection, Training, Testing, and Licensing).

b. TC 21-305-2, 4 September 1998, Training Program for Night Vision Goggle Driving Operations.

c. TC 21-306, 10 February 2000, Tracked Combat Vehicle Driver Training.

2. A fatal accident involving the use of NVDs at Camp Blanding, Florida, has resulted in an Army wide review of NVD training. All units are required to review the results of the FORSCOM report prior to initiating internal reviews (enclosed). Commanders will review current unit NVD training programs IAW above guidance. Report status of compliance with the current training program to the Armor Branch Safety Office, ATTN: ATZK-S, NLT 15 Feb 01; if not in compliance include your plan to bring your program up to standard.

3. The ability to drive with NVDs; i.e., image intensification and thermal imaging devices (less weapon sights) is a highly perishable skill – you use it or lose it. Soldiers need continuous NVD training, especially in perception and decision skills. Proficiency can be developed and maintained only through continuous hands-on training. Commanders must manage NVD training programs IAW above references and determine what type of night training program best supports their unit mission. Commanders, trainers, and users must understand the NVD's operation, capabilities, and limitations in order to manage their associated risks.

4. Following are training, testing, and licensing requirements for use of NVDs by vehicle operators. Personnel supporting driving missions; e.g., co-drivers, senior occupants, and track commanders, will as a minimum complete the academics portion of the training described in reference 1a, paragraph 8-5a.

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a. Speed limit will not exceed 10 mph for all modes of driving with NVDs; speed will be reduced as conditions dictate IAW the commander's risk assessment. All drivers in a night convoy must be equipped with operational NVDs.

b. Written risk assessments will be completed before all NVD training. Consider the following when conducting risk assessments: weather, terrain, equipment and vehicle status, soldier and instructor experience, and mission preparation.

c. NVD qualification and refresher training will be conducted per guidance in reference 1a, paragraphs 8-5 and 8-6.

d. Instructors must be NVD qualified, and licensed on the vehicle on which training is conducted. NVD instructor training will comply with above references.

e. Instructors must be designated in writing by the commander as certified NVD instructors.

f. Unit master drivers will implement the commander's program, conduct qualification and refresher training, administer road tests, and keep the commander informed on the overall status of the unit's NVD profile.

g. Unit master drivers will document qualification and refresher training on the individual's DA Form 348, section III, and annotate on the OF 346 and DA Form 348, section I, the specific type of NVD on which the individual is qualified.

h. Qualification training will include sequential instruction in both academic and night vision driving tasks outlined in reference 1a, paragraph 8-5. A qualified NVD instructor must supervise all instruction.

i. To be qualified and licensed to drive using NVDs, personnel must be licensed and current on the vehicle in which they will receive NVD training, complete the academic and driving requirements in reference 1a, paragraph 8-5a and b, and successfully complete an NVD driver performance test given by an NVD instructor.

j. Refresher training will be conducted for motor vehicle operators who have not participated in an NVD driving mission in the past 6 months to maintain or regain proficiency. Minimum requirements for NVD refresher training are:

(1) Demonstrate proficiency in all qualification training tasks identified in reference 1a, appendix I.

(2) Successfully complete an NVD driver performance test given by an NVD instructor.

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5. Commanders will review current unit NVD training programs IAW above guidance. Report status of compliance with current training program to the Armor Branch Safety Office, ATTN: ATZK-S, NLT 15 Feb 01; if not in compliance include your plan to bring your program up to standard.

6. POC is Mr. John J. Dougherty, Armor Branch Safety Office, 4-4920.

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Encl



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